

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Title : COPY CONTROL FOR A VIDEO SIGNAL WITH COPYRIGHT  
SIGNALS SUPERIMPOSED AS PREDETERMINED BITS IN  
THE VBID DATA OF THE VIDEO SIGNAL  
Examiner : Lee, Y. Young  
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**APPENDIX**

86. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a video signal to selectively permit copying thereof, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags such that predetermined bits of said associated plural-bit data or data flags represent second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information as a function of the classification by depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said method comprising the steps of generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of the number of

successive generations of copies that can be made from the processed video signal; said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval; and setting said ~~predetermined~~ second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags~~ second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce said processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information.

87-90. (Canceled)

91. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 86 wherein said copy generation ~~signal~~ data is a plural bit signal.

92. (Currently Amended) A video signal record medium having recorded thereon a video signal comprised of line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags, wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags~~ second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags, predetermined bits

~~of the associated plural-bit data flags~~ second set of data bits as copy protection information said  
second set of data bits represent copyright information and copy generation information, and  
when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as data~~,  
~~said predetermined bits~~ second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data  
bits represent other information; said copy protection information including copyright  
information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright[[;]] and copy  
generation information indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be  
made from the recorded video signal, ~~said copyright information and copy generation~~  
~~information being said predetermined bits in said non-picture portion~~; and said plural-bit mode  
number, said copyright information data and said copy generation information being superposed  
in VBID data in the same line interval.

93-96. (Canceled)

97. (Currently Amended) The record medium of claim 92 wherein said copy generation ~~signal~~  
information is a plural bit signal.

98. (Currently Amended) A method of recording a video signal that may be selectively copied,  
said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing  
useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion  
in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of  
data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated ~~a second of said sets~~  
being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data

~~bits~~ selectively classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags such that~~  
~~predetermined bits of said associated plural-bit data or data flags represent second set of data bits~~  
~~as copy protection information or as different information as a function of the classification by~~  
~~depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said method comprising the steps of~~  
generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to  
copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of  
copies that can be made from the video signal; said plural-bit mode number, said copyright  
information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line  
interval; setting said ~~predetermined second set of data bits~~ as the copyright information data and  
the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit~~  
~~data or data flags as flags~~ second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to  
produce a processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different  
information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as  
copy protection information; and recording said processed video signal on a record medium.

99-102. (Canceled)

103. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 98 wherein said copy generation ~~signal data~~ is a  
plural bit signal.

104. (Currently Amended) A method of selectively recording a video signal containing line  
intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from  
which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical

blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags, wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags, predetermined bits of the associated plural-bit data flags~~ second set of data bits as copy protection information said second set of data bits represent copyright information indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal, and when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as data, said predetermined bits~~ second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data bits represent other information, said method comprising the steps of detecting said copyright information and said copy generation information; modifying the ~~predetermined bits~~ copy generation information to indicate a decremented number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal if said copyright information indicates that the viewable picture is subject to copyright; recording the video signal having said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information and said modified copy generation information superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; and selectively inhibiting the recording of the video signal when said copyright information indicates that said viewable picture is subject to copyright and the detected copy generation information indicates that no successive generations of copies may be made from the video signal.

105. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 104 wherein said step of modifying the ~~predetermined bits~~ copy generation information comprises generating new copy generation information indicative of one less than the number of successive generations of copies which are indicated by the detected copy generation information, and superposing said new copy generation information in said VBID data of the video signal.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105 further comprising the steps of regenerating the detected copyright information, and superposing said regenerated copyright information in said VBID data of the video signal.

107-110. (Canceled)

111. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 104 wherein said copy generation ~~signal~~ information is a plural bit signal.

112. (Currently Amended) A method of reproducing a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion and a non-picture portion and containing at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets containing copy protection information representing whether a video picture derived from said video signal is subject to copyright and whether successive generations of copies can be made from said video signal, said method comprising the steps of playing back said video signal from a record medium; detecting said copy protection information in the played back video signal; generating copyright information data indicative of whether said video picture is subject to copyright;

generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from said played back video signal; setting both said copyright information data and said copy generation data as ~~predetermined bits of plural-bit data flags in said second set of data bits~~ which are associated with and classified by ~~a said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits, said plural-bit data flags-predetermined bits in said second set of data bits and said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits~~ being included in the same line interval of vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data, and said ~~predetermined bits being used to represent other second set of data bits representing copy protection information or different information as a function of the classification of said plural-bit data flags by depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number;~~ and disposing said VBID data in the non-picture portion of said played back video signal.

113-116. (Canceled)

117. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 112 wherein said copy generation ~~signal data~~ is a plural bit signal.

118. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 112 wherein said copy protection information comprises recorded copyright information data and recorded copy generation data, both included in VBID data in the non-picture portion of the video signal on said record medium, and both being detected to cause the detected copyright information data and copy generation data to be ~~set as said predetermined in said second set of data bits~~ in the VBID data of said played back video signal.

119. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for processing a video signal to selectively permit copying thereof, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags such that predetermined bits of said associated plural-bit data or data flags represent second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information as a function of the classification by depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said apparatus comprising means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the processed video signal; said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval and means for setting said predetermined second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce said processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information.



120-123. (Canceled)

124. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 119 wherein said copy generation ~~signal data~~ is a plural bit signal.

125. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for recording a video signal that may be selectively copied, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags such that predetermined bits of said associated plural-bit data or data flags represent second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information as a function of the classification by depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said apparatus comprising means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal; said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval; means for setting said ~~predetermined second set of data bits~~ as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags~~ second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce a processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits

represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information; and means for recording said processed video signal on a record medium.

126-129. (Canceled)

130. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 125 wherein said copy generation ~~signal-data~~ is a plural bit signal.

131. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for selectively recording a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags, wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags-second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags, predetermined bits of the associated plural-bit data flags-second set of data bits as copy protection information said second set of data bits represent copyright information indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal, and when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as data, said predetermined bits-second set of data bits as~~

different information, said second set of data bits represent other information, said apparatus  
comprising means for detecting said copyright information and said copy generation  
information; means for modifying the ~~predetermined bits~~ copy generation information to indicate  
a decremented number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video  
signal if said copyright information indicates that the viewable picture is subject to copyright;  
means for recording the video signal having said plural-bit mode number, said copyright  
information and said modified copy generation information superposed in said VBID data in the  
same line interval; and means for selectively inhibiting the recording of the video signal when  
said copyright information indicates that said viewable picture is subject to copyright and the  
detected copy generation information indicates that no successive generations of copies may be  
made from the video signal.

132. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 131 wherein said means for modifying the  
~~predetermined bits~~ copy generation information comprises means for generating new copy  
generation information indicative of one less than the number of successive generations of copies  
which are indicated by the detected copy generation information, and means for superposing said  
new copy generation information in said VBID data of the video signal.

133. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 132 wherein said means for recording  
includes means for regenerating the detected copyright information, and means for superposing  
said regenerated copyright information in said VBID data of the video signal prior to the  
recording of said video signal.

134-137. (Canceled)

138. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 131 wherein said copy generation signal information is a plural bit signal.

139. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for reproducing a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion and a non-picture portion and containing at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets containing copy protection information representing whether a video picture derived from said video signal is subject to copyright and whether successive generations of copies can be made from said video signal, said apparatus comprising means for playing back said video signal from a record medium; means for detecting said copy protection information in the played back video signal; means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether said video picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from said played back video signal; means for setting both said copyright information data and said copy generation data as predetermined bits of plural-bit data flags in said second set of data bits which are associated with and classified by a said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits, said plural-bit data flags predetermined bits in said second set of data bits and said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits being superposed in vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data in the same line interval, and said predetermined bits being used to represent other second set of data bits representing copy protection information or different information as a function of the classification of said plural-bit data flags by depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode

number; and disposing said VBID data in the non-picture portion of said played back video signal.

140-143. (Canceled)

144. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 139 wherein said copy generation ~~signal~~ data is a plural bit signal.

145. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 139 wherein said copy protection information comprises recorded copyright information data and recorded copy generation data, both included in the same line interval in VBID data in the non-picture portion of the video signal on said record medium, and said means for detecting is operable to detect both said copyright information data and copy generation data in the played back video signal; and said means for setting is operable to set as said predetermined bits the detected copyright information data and copy generation data in the VBID data of said played back video signal.

146. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a video signal to selectively permit copying thereof, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags

~~such that predetermined bits of said associated plural-bit data or data flags represent second set~~  
~~of data bits as copy protection information or as different information as a function of the~~  
~~classification by depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said method~~  
comprising the steps of generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable  
picture is subject to copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not at  
least one successive generation of copies can be made from the processed video signal when the  
copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright; and setting said  
~~predetermined second set of data~~ bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation  
data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as~~  
~~flags second set of data bits as copy protection information~~, said plural-bit mode number, said  
copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the  
same line interval, thereby to produce said processed video signal, ~~whereby said second set of~~  
~~data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify~~  
~~said second set of data bits as copy protection information.~~

147. (Canceled)

148. (Currently Amended) A video signal record medium having recorded thereon a video  
signal comprised of line intervals, including an effective picture portion containing useful picture  
information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is  
disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first  
of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second of said sets being plural-bit  
data or data flags, wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively

classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags~~ second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags~~, ~~predetermined bits of the associated plural-bit data flags~~ second set of data bits as copy protection information said second set of data bits represent copyright information and copy generation information, and when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as data~~, said ~~predetermined bits~~ second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data bits represent other information; said copy protection information including copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright[[]] and copy generation information indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the recorded video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright, said copyright information data and copy generation information being ~~said predetermined bits~~ superposed, along with said plural-bit mode number, in VBID data in the same line interval in said non-picture portion.

149. (Canceled)

150. (Currently Amended) A method of recording a video signal that may be selectively copied, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and ~~associated~~ a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits

selectively classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags such that~~  
~~predetermined bits of said associated plural-bit data or data flags represent second set of data bits~~  
~~as copy protection information or as~~ different information as a function of the classification by  
~~depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number,~~ said method comprising the steps of  
generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to  
copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not at least one successive  
generation of copies can be made from the video signal when the copyright information data  
indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright; setting said ~~predetermined second set of~~  
~~data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit~~  
~~mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags second set of data~~  
~~bits as copy protection information,~~ said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data  
and said copy generation data being superposed in VBID data in the same line interval, thereby  
to produce a processed video signal, ~~whereby said second set of data bits represent said different~~  
~~information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as~~  
~~copy protection information;~~ and recording said processed video signal on a record medium.

151. (Canceled)

152. (Currently Amended) A method of selectively recording a video signal containing line  
intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from  
which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical  
blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits; a first of said sets being  
a plural-bit mode number and ~~associated a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags,~~



wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags~~ second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags, predetermined bits of the associated plural-bit data flags~~ said second set of data bits as copy protection information, said second set of data bits represent copyright information indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright, and when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as data, said predetermined bits~~ second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data bits represent other information, said method comprising the steps of detecting said copyright information and said copy generation information; modifying the ~~predetermined bits~~ copy generation information to indicate a decremented number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal if said copyright information indicates that the viewable picture is subject to copyright; recording the video signal having said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information and said modified copy generation information superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; and selectively inhibiting the recording of the video signal when said copyright information indicates that said viewable picture is subject to copyright and the detected copy generation information indicates that no successive generations of copies may be made from the video signal.

153. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 152 wherein said step of modifying the ~~predetermined bits~~ copy generation information comprises generating new copy generation information indicative of one less than the number of successive generations of copies which are indicated by the detected copy generation information, and superposing said new copy generation information in said VBID data of the video signal.

154. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 153 further comprising the steps of regenerating the detected copyright information, and superposing said regenerated copyright information in said VBID data of the video signal.

155. (Canceled)

156. (Currently Amended) A method of reproducing a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion and a non-picture portion and containing at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets containing copy protection information representing whether a video picture derived from said video signal is subject to copyright and whether at least one successive generation of copies can be made from said video signal when the copy protection information indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright, said method comprising the steps of playing back said video signal from a record medium; detecting said copy protection information in the played back video signal; generating copyright information data indicative of whether said video picture is subject to copyright; generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not least one successive generation of copies can be made from said played back video signal when the copyright

information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright; setting both said copyright information data and said copy generation data as predetermined bits of ~~plural-bit data flags in said second set of data bits~~ which are associated with and classified by a said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits, ~~said plural-bit data flags predetermined bits in said second set of data bits and said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits~~ being included in vertical blanking interval (VBID) data in the same line interval, and said ~~predetermined bits being used to represent other second set of data bits representing copy protection information or different information as a function of the classification of said plural-bit data flags by depending upon the content~~ said plural-bit mode number; and disposing said VBID data in the non-picture portion of said played back video signal.

157. (Canceled)

158. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 156 wherein said copy protection information comprises recorded copyright information data and recorded copy generation data, both included in VBID data in the non-picture portion of the video signal on said record medium, and both being detected to cause the detected copyright information data and copy generation data to be set as said predetermined bits in the VBID data of said played back video signal.

159. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for processing a video signal to selectively permit copying thereof, said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least

two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second  
of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first  
set of data bits selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags  
such that predetermined bits of said associated plural-bit data or data flags represent second set  
of data bits as copy protection information or as different information as a function of the  
classification by depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said apparatus  
comprising means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable  
picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of whether  
or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the processed video signal  
when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright, said  
plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being  
superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; and means for setting said ~~predetermined~~  
second set of data bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said  
plural-bit mode number classifies said-associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags second set  
of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce said processed video signal,  
whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit  
mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information.

160. (Canceled)

161. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for recording a video signal that may be selectively copied,  
said video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing  
useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion

in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags such that predetermined bits of said associated plural-bit data or data flags represent second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information as a function of the classification by depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number, said apparatus comprising means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright; said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information data and said copy generation data being superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; means for setting said ~~predetermined second set of data bits~~ as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said ~~associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags~~ second set of data bits as copy protection information, thereby to produce a processed video signal, whereby said second set of data bits represent said different information when said plural-bit mode number does not classify said second set of data bits as copy protection information; and means for recording said processed video signal on a record medium.

162. (Canceled)

163. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for selectively recording a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking interval (VBID) data comprised of at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and associated a second of said sets being plural-bit data or data flags wherein said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags second set of data bits as copy protection information or as different information such that when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags, predetermined bits of the associated plural-bit data flags second set of data bits as copy protection information said second set of data bits represent copyright information indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from the video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright, and when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data, said predetermined bits second set of data bits as different information, said second set of data bits represent other information, said apparatus comprising means for detecting said copyright information and said copy generation information; means for modifying the predetermined bits copy generation information to indicate a decremented number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal if said copyright information indicates that the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for recording the video signal having said plural-bit mode number, said copyright information and said modified copy generation information superposed in said VBID data in the same line interval; and means for selectively inhibiting the recording of the video signal when

said copyright information indicates that said viewable picture is subject to copyright and the detected copy generation information indicates that no successive generations of copies may be made from the video signal.

164. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 163 wherein said means for modifying the ~~predetermined bits~~ copy generation information comprises means for generating new copy generation information indicative of one less than the number of successive generations of copies which are indicated by the detected copy generation information, and means for superposing said new copy generation information in said VBID data of the video signal.

165. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 164 wherein said means for recording includes means for regenerating the detected copyright information, and means for superposing said regenerated copyright information in said VBID data of the video signal prior to the recording of said video signal.

166. (Canceled)

167. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for reproducing a video signal containing line intervals and having an effective picture portion and a non-picture portion and containing at least two sets of data bits, a first of said sets being a plural-bit mode number and a second of said sets containing copy protection information representing whether a video picture derived from said video signal is subject to copyright and whether at least one successive generation of copies can be made from said video signal, said apparatus comprising means for playing back said video signal from

a record medium; means for detecting said copy protection information in the played back video signal; means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether said video picture is subject to copyright; means for generating copy generation data indicative of whether or not at least one successive generation of copies can be made from said played back video signal when the copyright information data indicates the viewable picture is subject to copyright; means for setting both said copyright information data and said copy generation data as predetermined bits ~~of plural-bit data flags in said second set of data bits~~ which are associated with and classified by ~~a said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits, said plural-bit data flags~~ predetermined bits in said second set of data bits and said plural-bit mode number of said first set of data bits being superposed in vertical blanking interval (VBID) data in the same line interval, ~~and said predetermined bits being used to represent other second set of data bits representing~~ copy protection information or different information as a function of the classification of said plural-bit data flags by depending upon the content of said plural-bit mode number; and means for disposing said VBID data in the non-picture portion of said played back video signal.

168. (Canceled)

169. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 167 wherein said copy protection information comprises recorded copyright information data and recorded copy generation data, both included in VBID data in the non-picture portion of the video signal on said record medium, and said means for detecting is operable to detect both said copyright information data and copy generation data in the played back video signal; and said means for setting is operable to set as



said predetermined bits the detected copyright information data and copy generation data in the  
VBID data of said played back video signal.

170. (Canceled)